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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2911
INFO RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE 3745
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 2782
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE 5358
RUEHMK/AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE 2990
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 4013
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE 8631
RUEHCL/AMCONSUL CASABLANCA IMMEDIATE 1292
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0458
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 000341

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/23/2016
TAGS: [AG](#) [KPKO](#) [MO](#) [PARM](#) [PBTS](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#)
SUBJECT: WESTERN SAHARA: US INTERVENTIONS CONCERNING
POTENTIAL CONFRONTATION WITH THE POLISARIO DISCUSSED WITH
THE FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: RABAT 00326

Classified By: AMBASSADOR THOMAS T. RILEY FOR REASONS 1.4 (b) AND (d)

¶1. (C) Ambassador Thomas T. Riley called Foreign Minister Benaissa to update him on the steps taken by the USG (reftel) regarding a potential Polisario organized march on the berm in the Western Sahara on February 27. The Ambassador informed the Foreign Minister that the Department of State, Embassy Algiers, and MINURSO had been contacted.

¶2. (C) The Ambassador stated that the MINURSO force commander will be meeting with Polisario representatives over the weekend and on Monday, February 27 to reinforce the importance of the Polisario honoring its earlier assurances to MINURSO that there will not be anyone marching to the berm nor will provocative demonstrations be staged.

¶3. (C) The Ambassador assured the Foreign Minister that Embassy Algiers will be making similar points to the Polisario and the Algerians to take necessary measures to avoid provocation.

¶4. (C) The Foreign Minister stated that Algeria and the Polisario are provoking a problem and are instigating demonstrations from Tindouf and Algiers. He also stated that MINURSO is a problem for the GOM and that he appeared to be unaware of assurances MINURSO had received from the Polisario.

¶5. (C) The Ambassador reminded the Foreign Minister that maximum restraint is required by the GOM in this situation. In particular, if there are demonstrations of any sort, i.e., pro-Polisario or not, in Laayoune, the GOM must be avoid confrontation and exercise restraint. The Foreign Minister agreed, but added that if property is destroyed, as has occurred in past demonstrations, the GOM will have to intervene.

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Riley